

Remarks

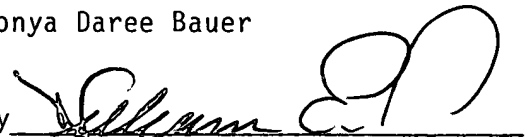
Pending claims 1-3, 8, and 9 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Partridge in view of Hallman et al. Pending claims 3 and 9 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly pending claims 2, 3, and 9 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 3 and 9.

It is believed that entry of the foregoing Rule 116 Amendment places this application in condition for allowance of amended claims 1 and 8. Favorable action is accordingly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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